



MAYOR AND COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 13

DEPT.: City Manager's Office /
STAFF CONTACT: Catherine Tuck Parrish

DATE PREPARED:
FOR MEETING OF:

SUBJECT: Maryland Municipal League Legislative Action Requests for the 2006 State Legislative Session

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council direct staff to submit the following two items as Legislative Action Requests to the Maryland Municipal League:

1. Allow municipalities to adopt an additional local option sales tax.

This would allow municipalities to potentially provide some property tax relief by replacing this revenue with a local option sales tax. Currently all sales tax revenue goes to the State.

2. Allow municipalities more discretion in setting up homeowners' tax credit programs by deleting the section of law pertaining to municipalities and replacing it with the same discretion allowed for counties.

Counties are currently allowed to make changes to the amount allowed for assessed valuation and income levels. Cities may only adopt the State amount and may not make changes to either the assessed valuation or income levels that qualify an individual. Allowing municipalities to have the same discretion as Counties for the Homestead Tax Credit would give more flexibility and account for the varied property values and income levels around the State based on the desires of the local government's governing body.

DISCUSSION: Each year, the Mayor and Council determine if there are issues that could be addressed by changing State law. These are written as a Legislative Action Request and sent to the Maryland Municipal League (MML). MML's Legislative Committee determines which items should be taken on as an MML priority issue for the upcoming legislative session.

Staff recommends that the two topics above be submitted to MML. MML staff has extensive experience in working through the State legislative process. If either of the City's priorities are adopted, it will allow City staff to work collaboratively with MML staff in Annapolis next year which has proven to be very effective for the City.

If directed through this item, staff will present the above three topics to MML as Legislative Action Requests. These will be discussed and considered along with requests from other jurisdictions over the summer. The final MML priorities will be recommended by the Legislative Committee and voted on by MML jurisdictions at the Fall Legislative Conference.

Fiscal Impact: No direct impact with this action

Change in Law or Policy: Request for the Maryland Municipal League to work on legislation to change State law

Next Steps: Legislative action requests will be submitted to MML by the June 15 deadline.

PREPARED BY:

Catherine L. Paine

APPROVED BY:

S. H. W. W.

6/01/05

DATE:

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum dated May 17, 2005 – Proposed Legislative Action Requests for 2006 State Legislative Session (circle 3)



City of Rockville

MEMORANDUM

May 17, 2005

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Scott Ullery, City Manager

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislative Action Requests for 2006 State Legislative Session

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) has issued its annual call for proposed Legislative Action Requests (LAR) from its member municipalities. Each year the League's Legislative Committee reviews approximately 30 to 40 requests and chooses three or four as top priorities for the coming year.

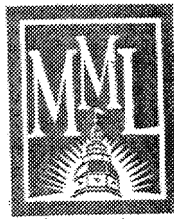
Department heads were asked if they were aware of any pressing issues that needed legislative attention in the coming year and did not advise me of any areas of concern. However, we are all aware of the governing body's consideration of possible tax relief alternatives and if the Council were so inclined, I would suggest that presenting this issue as an LAR would be an excellent method for advancing such legislation. Additional ideas for your consideration include:

- Seeking additional authority over our ability to regulate state roads, including the placement of red light cameras, regulation of pedestrian signals, etc.
- Seeking authority to impose some form of local sales or use tax. Such a move would enable the Council to decrease its reliance on the property tax, a move that might be attractive considering the impact of rising assessments on homeowners.

We have scheduled a discussion on the June 6 Mayor and Council meeting. As LARs are due to MML by June 15, we will ask the Council to reach a decision at the end of the discussion. Staff recommends that the City submit no more than two LARs, though there is no official limit on the number that may be submitted.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attachment: MML Guidelines for LAR Submission



MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Association of Cities and Towns

April 20, 2005

TO: Elected and Appointed Municipal Officials

RE: 2006 Legislative Action Request Forms

Dear Municipal Official:

MML is soliciting member municipalities for suggested legislative priorities for the 2006 legislative session. Please keep in mind the Legislative Action Request (LAR) submission requirements:

- ❖ An LAR that has been submitted twice in one four-year General Assembly cycle and rejected by MML is not eligible for submission.
- ❖ The LAR form must include verification that the elected body of the municipality has endorsed the request prior to submission to the Committee.

The (LAR) form is attached and must be completed, approved by your city or town council, and returned to MML by June 15, 2005. This will give the staff adequate time to research and write up each LAR prior to the first meeting of the MML Legislative Committee in August, 2005. If you have questions, please contact Jim Peck or Candace Donoho at MML.

②

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-3635

410-268-5514 / 800-492-7121 / FAX 410-268-7004 / WEB URL www.mdmmunicipal.org / E-MAIL mml@mdmmunicipal.org

2006 MML LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

Name of Municipality, Chapter or Department submitting request: _____

Contact Person/Title _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone numbers: (Work) _____ (Home) _____ Email: _____

Please complete this form in its entirety. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as well as documents related to your request. **FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN Wednesday, June 15, 2005.**

INTRODUCTION

1. Describe the problem or situation the request is intended to address:

2. Describe the requested legislation:

3. Describe how the requested legislation would remedy the problem:

4. The proposed legislation would address: _____ Only your municipality
_____ Only municipalities in your county _____ Only statewide municipalities
_____ All counties and municipalities in the entire state

5. Would the proposed remedy have a significant fiscal impact on your municipality?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Could the problem be resolved by something other than a new law, i.e., action by another level of government or changes in administrative procedures?
2. If administrative remedies have already been pursued, what were they and what was the outcome?
3. What other state and/or local agencies, if any, would be affected by this proposal?
4. Have any state agencies been contacted about the proposal? If yes, what was their reaction?

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Has the League considered this proposal in a previous year? If yes, describe any significant changes in circumstances that might improve its chances of success in 2005:
2. Has this request been considered by the General Assembly in prior sessions? If yes, please provide the bill number, year, and outcome of legislation, if known:
3. Has this proposed legislation been implemented by any other city, county or state? If yes, please describe where it has been implemented and cite any existing law or model code upon which the proposal is based:

Signature of authorized municipal, chapter
or departmental official

Print name

Date

Return Form To:

MML Legislative Committee
1212 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

ATTN: Kelly Pierce

Indicate the date of the meeting where the governing body of the municipality, chapter or department endorsed the request: _____

(4)

FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN Wednesday, June 15, 2005